

1      **CLAIMS**

2

3      What is claimed is:

4

5      **1. A method comprising:**

6      displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the  
7      first GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a first  
8      computing device; and

9      displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the  
10     second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a second  
11     computing device that is operatively connected to said first computing device, and  
12     wherein said second GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said  
13     display screen and includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second  
14     GUI is not associated with said first computing device.

15

16      **2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said first**  
17     **and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.**

18

19      **3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said first**  
20     **and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application**  
21     **program.**

1           4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second GUI is  
2 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first  
3 GUI is visible to said user.

4  
5           5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one identifier  
6 is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer displayed  
7 until reactivated.

8  
9           6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier  
10 is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one identifier  
11 was last displayed.

12  
13           7. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier  
14 is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to enter into  
15 a defined region of said second GUI.

16  
17           8. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said at least one identifier  
18 is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to enter into  
19 a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor remains in said region for a  
20 definable period of time.

21  
22           9. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one identifier  
23 is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

1           **10.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2 identifier is selectively displayed by said program operatively configured on said  
3 second computing device.

4  
5           **11.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one  
6 identifier includes information identifying said second computing device.

7  
8           **12.** The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one  
9 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured  
10 to provide at least one user input to said second computing device.

11  
12           **13.** A method comprising:  
13           generating graphical user interface (GUI) data suitable for being displayed  
14 on a display screen, the GUI data being associated with a program operatively  
15 configured on a computing device that is configurable to be operatively coupled to  
16 another computing device,

17           wherein said another computing device is connected to said display screen  
18 and if displayed on said display screen said GUI data is configured to use  
19 substantially the full screen of said display screen, and

20           wherein said GUI data includes data for displaying at least one identifier  
21 that identifies that said GUI data is associated with said computing device.

1           **14.**    The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said GUI data includes  
2 desktop GUI data associated with an operating system running on said computing  
3 device.

4  
5           **15.**    The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said GUI data includes  
6 application GUI data associated with an application program running on said  
7 computing device.

8  
9           **16.**    A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
10 instructions for performing acts comprising:

11           displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the  
12 first GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a first  
13 computing device; and

14           displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the  
15 second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on a second  
16 computing device that is operatively connected to said first computing device, and  
17 wherein said second GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said  
18 display screen and includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second  
19 GUI is not associated with said first computing device.

20  
21           **17.**    The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein at  
22 least one of said first and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an  
23 operating system.

1           **18.**    The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein at  
2    least one of said first and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with  
3    an application program.

4  
5           **19.**    The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
6    at least one identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then  
7    no longer displayed until reactivated.

8  
9           **20.**    The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
10   at least one identifier includes information identifying said second computing  
11   device.

12  
13           **21.**    The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
14   at least one identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is  
15   operatively configured to provide at least one user input to said second computing  
16   device.

17  
18           **22.**    A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
19   instructions for performing acts comprising:

20           generating graphical user interface (GUI) data suitable for being displayed  
21   on a display screen, the GUI data being associated with a program operatively  
22   configured on a computing device that is configurable to be operatively coupled to  
23   another computing device,

1       wherein said another computing device is connected to said display screen  
2 and generating said GUI data such that if displayed on said display screen said  
3 GUI data uses substantially the full screen of said display screen, and

4       generating said GUI data to include data for displaying at least one  
5 identifier that identifies that said GUI data is associated with said computing  
6 device.

7  
8       **23.**      The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein said  
9 GUI data includes desktop GUI data associated with an operating system running  
10 on said computing device.

11  
12       **24.**      The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein said  
13 GUI data includes application GUI data associated with an application program  
14 running on said computing device.

15  
16       **25.**      A system comprising:  
17            a display screen;  
18            a communication link;  
19            a first computing device operatively coupled to said display screen and said  
20 communication link, and configured to display a first graphical user interface  
21 (GUI) on said display screen, the first GUI being associated with a program  
22 running on said first computing device;

23            a second computing device operatively coupled to said communication link  
24 and thusly said first computing device, said second computing device being  
25 configured to display a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the

1 second GUI being associated with a program operatively configured on said  
2 second computing device, and wherein said second GUI is displayed on  
3 substantially the full screen of said display screen and includes at least one  
4 identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated with said first  
5 computing device.

6  
7 26. The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first  
8 and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.

9  
10 27. The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first  
11 and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application  
12 program.

13  
14 28. The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said second GUI is  
15 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first  
16 GUI is visible to said user.

17  
18 29. The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one  
19 identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer  
20 displayed until reactivated.

21  
22 30. The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said at least one  
23 identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one  
24 identifier was last displayed.

1           **31.** The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said at least one  
2 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to  
3 enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

4

5           **32.** The system as recited in Claim 29, further comprising:  
6            a pointing device operatively coupled to said first computing device; and  
7            wherein said at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a  
8 pointing device controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI  
9 and said cursor remains in said region for a definable period of time.

10

11           **33.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one  
12 identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

13

14           **34.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one  
15 identifier is selectively displayed by said second computing device.

16

17           **35.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one  
18 identifier includes information identifying said second computing device.

19

20           **36.** The system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least one  
21 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured  
22 to provide at least one user input to said second computing device.

23

24           **37.** An apparatus comprising:  
25

1 a computing device capable of being operatively connected to at least one  
2 other computing device through an interconnecting communication channel, said  
3 computing device having logic configured to generate graphical user interface  
4 (GUI) data suitable for display on a display screen coupled to said other  
5 computing device, wherein if displayed on said display screen said GUI data is  
6 configured to use substantially the full screen of said display screen, and wherein  
7 said GUI data includes data for displaying at least one identifier that identifies that  
8 said GUI data is associated with said computing device.

9

10 38. The apparatus as recited in Claim 37, wherein said GUI data  
11 includes desktop GUI data associated with operating system logic configured on  
12 said computing device.

13

14 39. The apparatus as recited in Claim 37, wherein said GUI data  
15 includes application GUI data associated with application program logic  
16 configured on said computing device.

17

18 40. A method comprising:  
19 displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the  
20 first GUI being associated with a first program; and

21 displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the  
22 second GUI being associated with a second program, and wherein said second  
23 GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said display screen and  
24 includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated  
25 with said first program.

1  
2       **41.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein at least one of said first  
3 and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an operating system.  
4

5       **42.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein at least one of said first  
6 and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with an application  
7 program.  
8

9       **43.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said second GUI is  
10 displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none of said first  
11 GUI is visible to said user.  
12

13       **44.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one  
14 identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then no longer  
15 displayed until reactivated.  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1           **45.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one  
2 identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said at least one  
3 identifier was last displayed.

4  
5           **46.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one  
6 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to  
7 enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

8  
9           **47.** The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein said at least one  
10 identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device controlled cursor to  
11 enter into a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor remains in said  
12 region for a definable period of time.

13  
14           **48.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one  
15 identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard input.

16  
17           **49.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one  
18 identifier includes information identifying said second program.

19  
20           **50.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said at least one  
21 identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is operatively configured  
22 to provide at least one user input to said second program.

1           **51.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said first program and  
2        said second program are operatively running on at least one processing unit within  
3        a single computer.

4  
5           **52.** The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said first program and  
6        said second program are operatively running on at processing units within  
7        different computers.

8  
9           **53.** A computer readable medium having computer implementable  
10        instructions for performing acts comprising:

11           displaying a first graphical user interface (GUI) on a display screen, the  
12        first GUI being associated with a first program; and

13           displaying a second GUI on said display screen over said first GUI, the  
14        second GUI being associated with a second program, and wherein said second  
15        GUI is displayed on substantially the full screen of said display screen and  
16        includes at least one identifier that identifies that said second GUI is not associated  
17        with said first program.

18  
19           **54.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein at  
20        least one of said first and said second GUIs is a desktop GUI associated with an  
21        operating system.

1           **55.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein at  
2 least one of said first and said second GUIs is an application GUI associated with  
3 an application program.

4  
5           **56.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
6 second GUI is displayed in full screen mode on said display screen, such that none  
7 of said first GUI is visible to said user.

8  
9           **57.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
10 at least one identifier is selectively displayed for a defined period of time and then  
11 no longer displayed until reactivated.

12  
13           **58.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said  
14 at least one identifier is reactivated after a defined period of time expires since said  
15 at least one identifier was last displayed.

16  
17           **59.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said  
18 at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device  
19 controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI.

20  
21           **60.** The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 57, wherein said  
22 at least one identifier is reactivated after the user causes a pointing device  
23 controlled cursor to enter into a defined region of said second GUI and said cursor  
24 remains in said region for a definable period of time.

25

1           **61.**    The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
2 at least one identifier is selectively displayed based on at least one user keyboard  
3 input.

4

5           **62.**    The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
6 at least one identifier includes information identifying said second program.

7

8           **63.**    The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
9 at least one identifier includes at least one user selectable feature that is  
10 operatively configured to provide at least one user input to said second program.

11

12          **64.**    The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
13 first program and said second program are operatively running on at least one  
14 processing unit within a single computer.

15

16          **65.**    The computer readable medium as recited in Claim 53, wherein said  
17 first program and said second program are operatively running on at processing  
18 units within different computers.